

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A delivery sheath, comprising:  
an elongated sheath having a proximal region, an intermediate region, and a distal portion;

[[a]] the proximal region having a proximal end and a distal end;

[[an]] the intermediate region extending distally from the proximal region, the intermediate region increasing in outer dimension from a proximal end of the intermediate region to a distal end thereof; and

[[a]] the distal portion extending distally from the intermediate region, the distal portion including a proximal end having an outer dimension that is greater than the outer dimension of the distal end of the intermediate region;

wherein the distal portion distally tapers in wall thickness along at least a portion of its length.

21. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 20, wherein the proximal region of the delivery sheath has a constant outer dimension.

22. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 20, wherein the distally tapering wall thickness is formed by distally decreasing the outside dimension of the delivery sheath.

23. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 20, wherein the distal portion includes a distal region, a reduced diameter region, and a distal tip region.

24. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 23, wherein the distal tip region is a closed distal tip region.

25. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 20, wherein the delivery sheath is configured to accommodate an intravascular emboli capturing device therein.

26. (Currently Amended) A delivery sheath, comprising:  
an elongated sheath having a proximal region, an intermediate region, and a distal portion;

[[a]] the proximal region having a proximal end and a distal end;

[[an]] the intermediate region extending distally from the proximal region, the intermediate region increasing in outer dimension from a proximal end of the intermediate region to a distal end thereof; and

[[a]] the distal portion extending distally from the intermediate region and including a distally tapering distal region having a distally decreasing wall thickness, the distal portion including a proximal end having an outer dimension that is greater than the outer dimension of the distal end of the intermediate region, the distal region tapering to an outer dimension that is less than the outer dimension of the proximal end of the distal portion.

27. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 26, wherein the proximal region of the delivery sheath has a constant outer dimension.

28. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 26, wherein the distally decreasing wall thickness is formed by distally decreasing the outside dimension of the delivery sheath.

29. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 26, wherein the distal portion further includes a reduced diameter region and a distal tip region.

30. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 29, wherein the distal tip region is a closed distal tip region.

31. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 26, wherein the delivery sheath is configured to accommodate an intravascular emboli capturing device therein.

32. (Currently Amended) A delivery sheath, comprising:  
an elongated sheath having a proximal region, an intermediate region, and a distal portion;

[[a]] the proximal region having a proximal end and a distal end;

[[an]] the intermediate region extending distally from the proximal region, the intermediate region increasing in outer dimension from a proximal end of the intermediate region to a distal end thereof; and

[[a]] the distal portion extending distally from the intermediate region and including a distally tapering distal region having a distally decreasing wall thickness, the distal portion including a flared proximal end having an outer dimension that is greater than the outer dimension of the distal end of the intermediate region, the distal portion tapering to an outer dimension that is less than the outer dimension of the proximal end of the distal portion;

wherein the distally decreasing wall thickness is formed by decreasing the outside dimension of the delivery sheath.

33. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 32, wherein the proximal region of the delivery sheath has a constant outer dimension.

34. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 32, wherein the distal portion further includes a reduced diameter region and a distal tip region.

35. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 34, wherein the distal tip region is a closed distal tip region.

36. (Previously Presented) The delivery sheath of claim 32, wherein the delivery sheath is configured to accommodate an intravascular emboli capturing device therein.

37. (New) A delivery sheath, comprising:  
an elongated sheath having a proximal shaft region, an intermediate shaft region, and a distal shaft portion;  
a proximal shaft region having a proximal end and a distal end;  
an intermediate shaft region extending distally from the proximal shaft region, the intermediate shaft region increasing in outer dimension from a proximal end of the intermediate shaft region to a distal end thereof; and  
a distal shaft portion extending distally from the intermediate shaft region, the distal shaft portion including a proximal end having an outer dimension that is greater than the outer dimension of the distal end of the intermediate shaft region;  
wherein the distal shaft portion distally tapers in wall thickness along at least a portion of its length.

38. (New) The delivery sheath of claim 37, wherein the proximal shaft region of the delivery sheath has a constant outer dimension.

39. (New) The delivery sheath of claim 37, wherein the distally tapering wall thickness is formed by distally decreasing the outside dimension of the delivery sheath.

40. (New) The delivery sheath of claim 37, wherein the distal shaft portion includes a distal region, a reduced diameter region, and a distal tip region.

41. (New) The delivery sheath of claim 40, wherein the distal tip region is a closed distal tip region.

42. (New) The delivery sheath of claim 37, wherein the delivery sheath is configured to accommodate an intravascular emboli capturing device therein.